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WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (N.W.T.)

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NWT)

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

INUVIK, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MAY, 1990

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INTRODUCTION

The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (WMAC) (NWT) was formed as part of the implementation of the wildlife management provisions of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA). The Council derives its mandate from Section 14 of the IFA and the enactment of the Western Arctic (Inuvialuit) Claims Settlement Act (1984). The Council began its first full year of activities in 1987/88. This Third Annual Report describes the activities of the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) during fiscal year 1989/90 (April 1, 1989 to March 31, 1990).

ROLE OF THE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NWT)

The role of the WMAC (NWT) is established in Section 14 of the IFA (see Appendix A). During 1989/90, the Council continued to pursue its mandated activities, and continued to increase its overall level of activity. The WMAC (NWT) worked closely with the Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC) and with government agencies responsible for wildlife management in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR).

ACTIVITIES DURING FISCAL YEAR 1989/90

OFFICERS AND STAFF

During 1989/90, the WMAC (NWT) experienced a number of changes in membership (see Appendix B). Mr. John Bailey served as Chairman of the Council during the fiscal year. He also served as Chairman of the Board of the Joint Secretariat. Mr. Bill Mair, the past Chairman of the Council, served as a Government of the Northwest Territories representative until January, 1990. Mr. Mair passed away on January 22, 1990 after a long battle with cancer. He is fondly remembered for his wisdom and his outstanding contributions to conservation during his many years in the north.

Mr. Roger Binne from the Government of the Northwest Territories joined the Council as a member during the year, as did Mr. Kevin McCormick from the Canadian Wildlife Service. Mr. Jim Hines acted as an alternate representative for the Canadian Wildlife Service throughout the fiscal year. Mr. Bob Wooley was appointed as a representative of the Government of the Northwest Territories in February, 1990. Mr. Andy Carpenter continued to serve as Vice-Chairman of the Council, and Mr. Albert Elias continued as a member during the year. Mr. Nelson Green resigned as an Inuvialuit Game Council representative in December, 1989. The IGC appointed Mr. Frank Pokiak as their new representative in January, 1990. Ms. Leslie Treseder, Resource Person - Wildlife, Joint Secretariat,

served as Secretary to the WMAC (NWT). Dr. Norm Snow, Executive Director of the Joint Secretariat, provided administrative and technical support to the Council, as did other staff at the Joint Secretariat.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The WMAC (NWT) held a total of five meetings during 1989/90. Regular meetings were held on June 27-28, 1989, August 28, 1989, December 11-12, 1989 and February 15, 1990. A workshop on long-term priorities for wildlife research in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region was held on June 28, 1989.

Council representatives attended a workshop on the environmental impact screening and review process on September 23-24, 1989. Members of the WMAC (NWT) attended regular meetings of the Inuvialuit Game Council on June 20-21, 1989, December 14-15, 1989 and February 21, 1990 to report on Council activities and provide advice to the IGC. The Council Chairman attended a number of meetings during the fiscal year, including the First Yukon North Slope Annual Conference in Dawson in May, 1989, a meeting with the NWT Minister of Renewable Resources in Yellowknife in November, 1989, the Polar Bear Technical Committee meeting in Whitehorse in February, 1990, and regular meetings of the Joint Secretariat Board of Directors.

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PLANS

Section 14 (60)(b) of the IFA states that the WMAC (NWT) is to prepare a conservation and management plan for the Western Arctic Region. The Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Conservation and Management Plan was released in October, 1988. One of the major objectives of this Plan is the production of individual conservation plans with each of the Inuvialuit communities.

During 1989/90, the Paulatuk Conservation Plan was completed. This involved two meetings between Council members and the community, ongoing activity on the part of the Community Working Group and consultation with government agencies responsible for renewable resource management in the Region. The Paulatuk Conservation Plan outlines a practical approach that will be taken by the Community and the renewable resource committees established pursuant to the IFA to implement conservation at the local level. The Paulatuk Conservation Plan was produced co-operatively with the Fisheries Joint Management Committee, government Departments and the Mackenzie Delta/Beaufort Sea Regional Land Use Planning Commission. Copies of the Plan are available from the Joint Secretariat in Inuvik. The Plan is accompanied by a map atlas which is available for viewing in Paulatuk and Inuvik.

One of the main recommendations of the Paulatuk Conservation Plan is that the Bluenose caribou herd and its calving and post-calving habitat in the Bluenose Lake area be protected. The preferred option for protection of this area is the establishment of a National Park. During 1989/90, the WMAC (NWT) and the community of Paulatuk worked with the Canadian Parks Service to develop a proposal for a National Park in the Bluenose Lake area. Research on various aspects of the proposal is planned for 1990/91, and discussions with the Canadian Parks Service are expected to continue over at least the next fiscal year.

With the completion of the Paulatuk Conservation Plan, the Council considered development of Conservation Plans with the other Inuvialuit communities. During 1989/90, it was agreed that the community of Tuktoyaktuk would be most appropriate for production of the next plan, since that area is subject to the most pressure from non-renewable resource development. The Council hopes to work closely with the community of Tuktoyaktuk to develop a conservation plan over the next year.

QUOTAS FOR WILDLIFE HARVESTING

During fiscal year 1989/90, the first quota for wildlife harvesting established under the IFA came into effect. A by-law for harvesting grizzly bears west of the Anderson River was developed

and was approved by the Tuktoyaktuk Hunters and Trappers Committee in December, 1989. In February, 1990 the by-law was approved by the Inuvialuit Game Council. With the acceptance of this by-law by the IGC, the quota of seven bears west of the Anderson River applies to all Inuvialuit hunters. Anyone wishing to hunt a grizzly bear in this area must obtain a grizzly bear tag from the Tuktoyaktuk Hunters and Trappers Committee.

Other quotas for wildlife harvesting were considered by the WMAC (NWT) during fiscal year 1989/90. In August, 1989 the Council dealt with muskoxen and caribou management on Banks Island. Recent studies and observations from local hunters have documented a rapid increase in the muskoxen population and a decline in the caribou population. The Council recommended to the NWT Minister of Renewable Resources that the quota for muskoxen on Banks Island be increased to 5,000. This recommendation was accepted by the Minister and the appropriate changes to the regulations have been instituted. The Council hopes that this quota increase will facilitate the commercial harvest of muskoxen and help to control the expanding numbers of muskoxen on the Island.

Along with the quota increase for muskoxen, the Council recommended to the Sachs Harbour Hunters and Trappers Committee that the caribou harvest on Banks Island be reduced to a maximum of 150 animals per year. This recommendation has been accepted by the people of Sachs Harbour, and the WMAC (NWT) will be working closely

with them to ensure that they will continue to have opportunities to harvest caribou in the future.

In February, 1990 the Council received a proposal from the IGC and the Olukhatomiut Hunters and Trappers Committee for a quota increase for muskoxen on northwestern Victoria Island. This proposal was supported by biological data from the NWT Department of Renewable Resources. The quota increase was approved by the Council, and is in the process of being implemented by the NWT Minister of Renewable Resources.

LEGISLATION CHANGES

The system adopted by the IGC, the Inuvialuit communities and the WMAC (NWT) for changes to wildlife legislation continued during 1989/90. Under this process, the WMAC (NWT) responds to community requests for changes to the NWT Wildlife Act or other legislation. During 1989/90 the Council continued to work on a proposal to change the muskoxen hunting seasons throughout the ISR. The hunting season for muskoxen on Banks Island was extended, and seasons in other parts of the region are expected to be lengthened in the near future. A proposal from the Tuktoyaktuk Hunters and Trappers Committee regarding sport hunting of moose was reviewed in light of completion of a study of the population. The Council recommended to the IGC and the Tuktoyaktuk Hunters and Trappers

Committee that sport hunting not be pursued, since it was unlikely that the population could support both subsistence and sport hunting.

Throughout the 1989/90 fiscal year, WMAC (NWT) members continued to be involved in discussions with the Government of the Northwest Territories regarding amendments to the NWT Wildlife Act. New legislation is being drafted to reflect the provisions of the IFA. The "legislative overhaul" is expected to be a major activity for the Council until the new legislation is passed by the N.W.T. Legislative Assembly. Passage of a new Wildlife Act for the ISR is scheduled for the fall session of 1990.

RESEARCH PROPOSALS

During 1989/90 the WMAC (NWT) continued to be involved in the review of proposals for wildlife research in the Western Arctic Region. The third annual review of studies being undertaken by the Canadian Wildlife Service and the NWT Department of Renewable Resources was held in February, 1990. To prepare for this review, the Council sponsored a workshop on long-term priorities for wildlife research. In conjunction with government agencies and the Inuvialuit Game Council, a priority list for wildlife research in the ISR was developed. The Council is taking an active role in determining new projects for the region and in monitoring ongoing

wildlife research. The Council was involved with the Viscount Melville Sound polar bear project throughout the fiscal year. Considerable effort was devoted to reallocation of funding, in order that this project could fulfill its objective of determining the size of the polar bear
population in the Viscount Melville Sound/M'Clure Strait area.

PUBLICATIONS

During 1989/90, the Council published a total of eight Technical Reports. The first of these was the Renewable Resource Directory for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. This document is intended as a reference on renewable resources and management agencies in the ISR. The remaining reports in the series deal with the results of wildlife studies funded from the IFA implementation budget.

The production of WMAC Technical Reports proved to be an onerous task for Council members and staff. The Council felt that its time would be better spent in using the results of reports to make management decisions. The responsibility for production of reports was therefore given to the government agencies that conduct the studies. The WMAC (NWT) will continue to work with these agencies to ensure that the results of research projects are available in a timely manner.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT SCREENING AND REVIEW

The Council became more involved in the Environmental Impact Screening and Review Process established under the IFA during 1989/90. Council members and staff reviewed project descriptions submitted to the Environmental Impact Screening Committee throughout the fiscal year, and advised the Committee of any concerns relating to wildlife and habitat. The Council Chairman and other members participated in the Isserk I-15 public hearings conducted by the Environmental Impact Review Board in October, 1989. The WMAC (NWT) participated in a workshop on screening criteria in September, 1989. Over the next year the Council hopes to have ongoing input into the development of screening criteria, and to formalize its input to the Screening and Review Process.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The WMAC (NWT) continued to work with the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) and the Fisheries Joint Management Committee on issues of mutual concern. The three groups convened a joint meeting in Inuvik in August, 1989 in an effort to co-ordinate research and other activities. All parties agreed that such a meeting was useful and it is hoped that these gatherings will become annual events.

Other issues which the Council dealt with during 1989/90 included a review of the Canadian Wildlife Service's draft Management Plans for Bird Sanctuaries in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, and development of a budget proposal for fiscal years 1991/92 to 1993/94.

FINANCIAL REPORT

During 1989/90, WMAC (NWT) expenditures totalled $72,617.40. This included publication of the Paulatuk Conservation Plan and the Technical Report Series, support for the Paulatuk Community Working Group and expenses for the Chairman throughout the year. Part of the Council budget supported one of the Government of the Northwest Territories members during most of the fiscal year. An additional $19,842.32 was spent to support Inuvialuit representation on the Council. As in the past, a large portion of this budget was allocated to travel. With the development of other conservation plans scheduled for future years, the Council is anticipating that a budget increase will be necessary to support its future work.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The third year of operations of the Wildlife Management Advisory

Council (NWT) saw significant progress in achieving the Council's objectives under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement. Publication of the Paulatuk Conservation Plan, progress on the proposal for establishment of a National Park in the Bluenose Lake area and finalization of the grizzly bear quota west of the Anderson River were major accomplishments during the fiscal year. The Paulatuk Conservation Plan sets an example for community-based conservation initiatives and integration of renewable resource management. The Council became involved in the consideration of a number of quotas for wildlife harvesting, and will continue to expand its efforts in this area in the future. The Council remains committed to working with the Inuvialuit communities to put the wildlife management objectives of the IFA into practice throughout the entire region.

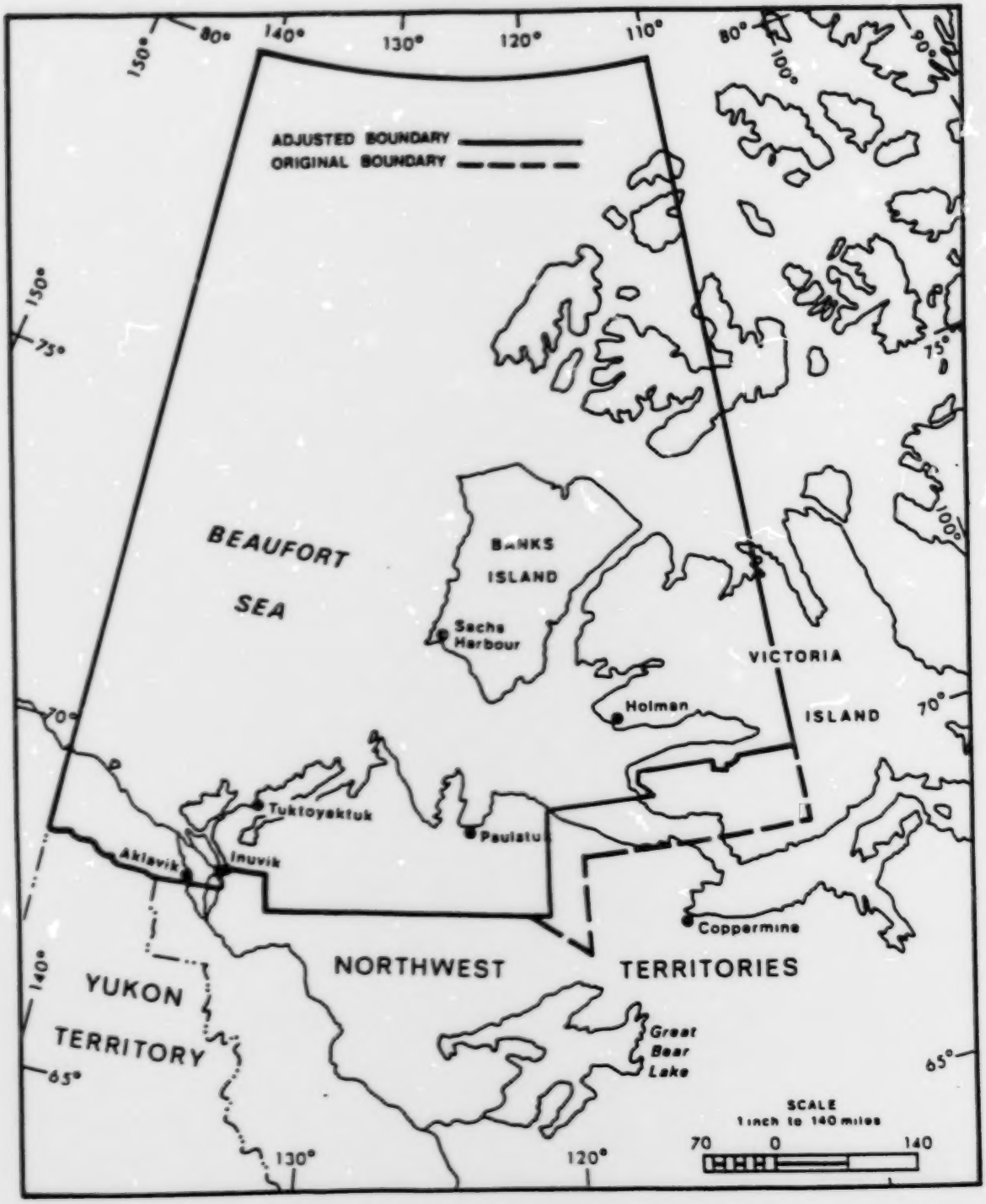

Figure 1. The Inuvialuit Settlement Region

APPENDIX A: ROLE OF THE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NWT) AS SET OUT IN THE INUVIALUIT FINAL AGREEMENT

Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)

14 (45) A council to be known as the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) is to be established as soon as possible after the execution of this Agreement.

14 (46) The Council shall initially have seven (7) members: the Chairman of the Council, one (1) representing Canada, two (2) representing the Government of the Northwest Territories and three (3) representing the Inuvialuit.

14 (47) The Council shall have jurisdiction in respect of that portion of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region that falls within the Northwest Territories including the adjacent near shore and offshore waters.

14 (48) The Council shall have as permanent members a Chairman and an equal number of native and government members.

14 (49) The permanent government members of the Council shall include persons designated by the Government of the Northwest Territories, and one person designated by the Minister of the Environment of Canada.

14 (50) In addition to permanent members of the Council, temporary members may be co-opted from government departments or native groups, as they may be required from time to time.

14 (51) The permanent members of the Council appointed to represent the native interests shall include persons designated by the Inuvialuit.

14 (52) Other native groups that have acquired harvesting rights in the Western Arctic Region under their land claims settlements shall be entitled to designate a representative.

14 (53) Pursuant to subsections (39) to (41), where native people adjacent to the Western Arctic Region harvest a game resource in common with the Inuvialuit, those native people shall be entitled to membership on the Council on an equitable basis with the Inuvialuit for the consideration of the harvestable quotas and allocation of the subsistence quotas for that game resource.

14 (54) The Chairman of the Council shall be appointed by the Government of the Northwest Territories, with the consent of the Inuvialuit and Canada.

14 (55) The permanent members of the Council shall each have one (1) vote. The Chairman shall have a vote only in case of a deadlock. Temporary members shall not have a vote.

14 (56) The Council may establish rules and adopt by-laws regulating its procedures, including the holding of public hearings.

14 (57) The Government of the Northwest Territories agrees to provide a secretariat to assist in meeting the administrative needs of the Council.

14 (58) Meetings of the Council shall be held once a year or more often as the appropriate minister or the Council decides.

14 (59) Each party shall pay the remuneration and expenses of the members of the Council that it appoints or designates.

14 (60) The Council shall, on request, provide advice to the appropriate ministers on all matters relating to wildlife policy and the management, regulation and administration of wildlife, habitat and harvesting for the Western Arctic Region and, without restricting the generality of the foregoing, the Council shall:

(a) provide advice on issues pertaining to the Western Arctic region to wildlife management boards, land use commissions, the Screening Committee and Review Board and any other appropriate bodies;

(b) prepare a wildlife conservation and management plan for the Western Arctic Region for recommendation to the appropriate authorities as a means for achieving and maintaining the principles set out in subsection (1) to (5);

(c) determine and recommend appropriate quotas for Inuvialuit harvesting in the Western Arctic Region;

(d) determine and recommend harvestable quotas for migratory game species referred to in subsections (39) and (40) where they are harvested by native peoples other than the Inuvialuit, whether inside or outside the Western Arctic Region;

(e) review and advise the Government on any proposed Canadian position for international purposes that affects wildlife in the Western Arctic Region;

(f) review and advise the appropriate government on existing or proposed wildlife legislation;

(g) advise on measures required to protect habitat that is critical for wildlife or harvesting in the Western Arctic Region; and

(h) request from time to time, if appropriate, the participation of the local Hunters and Trappers Committees in the regulation of the subsistence harvest and the collection of subsistence harvest information.

APPENDIX B: MEMBERSHIP OF THE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NWT) 1989/90

Chairman	-	John Bailey R.R. #1, S. 20, Comp. 205 Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 4Z6
Department of Environment Representative	-	Kevin McCormick Northern Operations Manager Canadian Wildlife Service P.O. Box 637 Yellowknife, N.W.T. X1A 2N5
Alternate	-	Jim Hines Wildlife Biologist Canadian Wildlife Service P.O. Box 637 Yellowknife, N.W.T. X1A 2N5
Government of the Northwest Territories Representative	-	W.W. (Bill) Mair 2250 Kinross Avenue Victoria, B.C. V8R 2V5 (April 1989 - January 1990)
Government of the Northwest Territories Representative	-	Roger Binne A/Regional Superintendent Department of Renewable Resources Government of the N.W.T. Bag Service #1 Inuvik, N.W.T. X0E 0T0
Government of the Northwest Territories Representative	-	Bob Wooley Assistant Deputy Minister (Operations) Department of Renewable Resources Government of the N.W.T. P.O. Box 1320 Yellowknife, N.W.T. X1A 2L9 (February - March, 1990)

Inuvialuit Game Council
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Nelson Green
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(April - December, 1989)

Frank Pokiak
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(January - March, 1990)